

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-53 (cancelled).

54 (currently amended). A gaming method comprising:

receiving a wager from a player;

displaying an image representing a first game;

determining to initiate a bonus game;

selecting a trivia question and a fixed set of answers associated with the trivia question for the bonus game, the trivia question and the fixed set of answers having a difficulty level selected according to a criterion, the criterion being independent of player preference;

displaying an image representing the bonus game;

receiving an answer selection from the player of one of the fixed set of answers; and

determining an award based on the answer selection.

Claim 55 (cancelled).

56 (previously presented). The gaming method of claim 54 wherein determining an award comprises determining an award from a bonus pool generated at least in part through the wager received from the player.

57 (previously presented). The gaming method of claim 56 wherein the award comprises the entire bonus pool.

58 (previously presented). The gaming method of claim 56 wherein the award comprises a portion of the bonus pool.

59 (previously presented). The gaming method of claim 56 wherein determining to initiate a bonus game comprises determining if a qualification for the player to enter to the bonus game has occurred, and further comprises:

setting a stake in the bonus pool for the player in the bonus game according to the qualification.

60 (previously presented). The gaming method of claim 54 wherein receiving an answer selection from the player further comprises:

forming a team from a plurality of players;

receiving a vote from at least one of the plurality of players, the vote associated with at least one of the fixed set of answers;

determining the answer selection according to the vote received from the at least one of the plurality of players.

61 (previously presented). The gaming method of claim 54 further comprising:

receiving a wager from a second player;

determining to initiate a bonus game for the second player;

selecting a second trivia question and a second fixed set of answers associated with the second trivia question for the bonus game, the second trivia question and the second fixed set of answers having a difficulty level selected according to a criterion;

displaying an image representing the bonus game;

receiving a second answer selection from the second player of one of the second fixed set of answers; and

determining a second award based on the second answer selection.

62 (previously presented). The gaming method of claim 61 wherein determining a second award comprises determining a second award from a bonus pool generated at least in part through the wager received from the player and the wager received from the second player.

63 (previously presented). The gaming method of claim 54 wherein receiving a wager from a player comprises receiving a wager from a player via one of a coin acceptor, a bill receiver and a card reader.

64 (previously presented). The gaming method of claim 54 wherein determining to initiate a bonus game comprises determining one of a combination of reels, a hand in video poker and a hand in video blackjack.

65 (previously presented). The gaming method of claim 54 wherein the first game comprises one of a video slot game, a video poker game, a video blackjack game, a video Keno game, and a video bingo game.

66 (currently amended). A gaming system comprising:

a display unit;

a wager input device;

a player input device; and

at least one processing unit operably coupled to the display unit, the wager input device, the player input device and a memory,

the at least one processing unit receiving a wager via the wager input device from a player;

the at least one processing unit causing the display unit to display an image representing a first game;

the at least one processing unit determining to initiate a bonus game;

the at least one processing unit selecting a trivia question and a fixed set of answers associated with the trivia question for the bonus game, the trivia question and the fixed set of answers having a difficulty level selected according to a criterion, the criterion being independent of player preference;

the at least one processing unit displaying an image representing the bonus game;

the at least one processing unit receiving an answer selection from the player of one of the fixed set of answers via the player input device; and

the at least one processing unit determining an award based on the answer selection.

Claim 67 (cancelled).

68 (previously presented). The gaming system of claim 66 wherein the at least one processor determines the award from a bonus pool generated at least in part through wager received from the player.

69 (previously presented). The gaming system of claim 68 wherein the award comprises the entire bonus pool.

70 (previously presented). The gaming system of claim 68 wherein the award comprises a portion of the bonus pool.

71 (previously presented). The gaming system of claim 68 wherein:

the at least one processing unit determines if a qualification for the player to enter to the bonus game has occurred; and

the at least one processing unit sets a stake in the bonus pool for the player in the bonus game according to the qualification.

72 (previously presented). The gaming system of claim 66 wherein:

the at least one processing unit forms a team from a plurality of players;

the at least one processing unit receives a vote from at least one of the plurality of players, the vote associated with at least one of the fixed set of answers; and

the at least one processing unit determines the answer selection according to the vote received from the at least one of the plurality of players.

73 (previously presented). The gaming system of claim 66 wherein the at least one processing unit:

receives a wager from a second player;

determines to initiate a bonus game for the second player;

selects a second trivia question and a second fixed set of answers associated with the second trivia question for the bonus game, the second trivia question and the second fixed set of answers having a difficulty level selected according to a criterion;

displays an image representing the bonus game;

receives a second answer selection from the second player of one of the second fixed set of answers; and

determines a second award based on the second answer selection.

74 (previously presented). The gaming system of claim 73 wherein the at least one processing unit determines the second award from a bonus pool generated at least in part through the wager received from the player and the wager received from the second player.

75 (previously presented). The gaming system of claim 66 wherein the wager input device comprises one of a coin acceptor, a bill receiver and a card reader.

76 (previously presented). The gaming system of claim 66 wherein the at least one processing unit determines to initiate the bonus game based on one of a combination of reels, a hand in video poker and a hand in video blackjack.

77 (previously presented). The gaming system of claim 66 wherein the game is one of a video slot game, a video poker game, a video blackjack game, a video Keno game, and a video bingo game.

78 (new). The gaming method of claim 54, wherein the criterion comprises a random selection.

79 (new). The gaming method of claim 54, wherein the criterion comprises a past performance of the player.

80 (new). The gaming method of claim 54, wherein the criterion comprises a status in the bonus game

81 (new). The gaming system of claim 66, wherein the criterion comprises a random selection.

82 (new). The gaming system of claim 66, wherein the criterion comprises a past performance of the player.

83 (new). The gaming system of claim 66, wherein the criterion comprises a status in the bonus game.